

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

FACIAL PAPULES AND NODULES IN AN OLD LADY

W Li⁽¹⁾ - M Zheng⁽¹⁾ - Xy Man⁽¹⁾

Second Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School Of Medicine, Department Of Dermatology, Hangzhou, China⁽¹⁾

Background: Cutaneous tuberculosis (TB) occurs in 1% of TB cases worldwide. Lupus vulgaris (LV), the most common variant, is an extremely chronic and progressive form of cutaneous TB, occurring in individuals with a moderate or high degree of immunity. The typical LV lesion is a plaque, composed of soft, reddish-brown papules. The appearance on diascopy is said to resemble apple jelly.

Observation: A 62-year-old woman presented facial papules and nodules for more than 10 years. The initial lesions are reddish papules on face around the nose without definite injury history. The papules increased gradually and affected the entire face. The local hospital prescribed oral glucocorticoid (discontinuous, about half a year), but the lesions evolved into nodules and pustules. As the lesions focused around the nose, the patient was diagnosed as “acne rosacea” by another local hospital and treated with “metronidazole, doxycycline and anti-acne drugs”. However, the lesions did not improve significantly. Skin examination reveals multiple erythematous papules and nodules on the face with scales.

Key message: Lupus vulgaris is a very long-term disorder, but the natural course of an untreated lesion is inexorably progressive. The prognosis of LV is generally good, primarily because standard triple anti-tuberculosis is effective.

In this patient, a surgical biopsy specimen was obtained from one of nodules on face. Hematoxylin-eosin stain of the biopsy specimen was notable for granulomatous inflammation in whole dermis, composed of a mixed inflammatory infiltrate including histiocytes, lymphocytes, neutrophils and plenty of multinucleated giant cells. The periodic acid-Schiff and acid-fast staining were both negative. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) targeting IS6110 identified *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in the patient's tissue specimen.